

TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDIES TO ADDRESS CERTAIN WATER SHORTAGES WITHIN THE SNAKE, BOISE, AND PAYETTE RIVER SYSTEMS IN IDAHO, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

APRIL 25, 2006.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. POMBO, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2563]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2563) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the bureau of Reclamation, is authorized to conduct feasibility studies on projects that address water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and deemed appropriate for further study by the 2006 Bureau of Reclamation Boise Payette water storage assessment report. Studies conducted under this section must comply with Bureau of Reclamation policy standards and guidelines for studies.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior \$3,000,000 to carry out this section.

(c) SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this section.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 2563 is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In Idaho, water demands for domestic and household uses, irrigation, recreation, and Endangered Species Act requirements are constantly growing and will surpass the current water supply without long term planning. A water use assessment and forecast study, funded by the Bureau of Reclamation, estimated that by 2025, annual water demand in the Boise Valley would grow by 74 percent. As a result of these forecast water shortages, many have called for more water storage in the Snake, Boise, and Payette River basins. Before any new storage could be built, a number of economic, engineering and environmental studies are required to take place. As part of this process, Reclamation is currently conducting a water storage assessment in this area.

The water storage assessment will use the best available information to examine and prioritize water storage options at a reconnaissance level and will not require the collection of new data. It will specify the volume of additional water storage needed to meet future demand and create a general water storage opportunities assessment to identify a wide range of potential options for achieving this storage. This assessment will then be used as the basis for more complex studies that could determine the economic, engineering and environmental feasibility of specific storage sites on the Upper Snake, Boise and Payette River systems. This legislation authorizes Reclamation to conduct these feasibility studies.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2563 was introduced on May 24, 2005, by Congressman C.L. “Butch” Otter (R-ID). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water and Power. On November 3, 2005, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On March 29, 2006, the Full Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Water and Power was discharged from further consideration of the bill by unanimous consent. Congressman George Radanovich (R-CA) offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to clarify authorizing language and place a 10 year sunset on the bill’s authorization. The amendment was adopted by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Authority to conduct feasibility studies

As amended, this section authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct feasibility studies on potential water storage within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems. The feasibility studies can only be initiated if they are deemed appropriate by the 2006 Bureau of Reclamation Boise Payette water storage assessment report. As amended, this section also authorizes \$3 million to carry out the studies and limits the federal authorization to 10 years.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and for other purposes.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 2563—A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho

H.R. 2563 would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct feasibility studies to address water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho. H.R. 2563 would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million for those studies.

Assuming appropriation of the specified amount, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2563 would cost \$3 million over the 2007–2011 period. Enacting H.R. 2563 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2563 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would authorize funding for studies that would benefit water agencies along river systems in the state of Idaho. Any costs that they might incur to provide matching funds would result from complying with conditions for receiving federal assistance.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Julie Middleton. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

